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AS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Dahayanake et al.

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For: VISCOELASTIC SURFACTANT FLUIDS AND RELATED  
METHODS OF USE

Atty. Docket: 516.0074USX

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is filed concurrently with the present application.

Basis in the specification for the level of zwitterionic surfactant set forth in claim 1, 77% or more by weight of all surfactants present, is seen at Examples 9 and 10 (77%), Example 8 (89%) and Example 7 (92%). Basis for claims 5 and 6 is seen at Examples 8 and 7, respectively.

Basis in the specification for the levels of anionic surfactant in claims 7 and 8 is seen in Examples 10 and 9, respectively.

Basis in the specification for the ratio of zwitterionic surfactant to anionic surfactant set forth in claim 31, 3 1/3 to 1 or greater, is seen in Examples 9 and 10 ( $3.0/0.9 = 3 \frac{1}{3}$  and  $4.0/1.2 = 3 \frac{1}{3}$ ), Example 8 ( $4.0/0.5 = 8.0$ ) and Example 7 ( $4.0/0.35 = 11.43$ ). Additional basis for claim 31 as well as claims 36 to 38 is seen at comparison of the levels set forth at p. 11, lines 13 to 17 and p. 14, lines 8 to 12.

Basis in the specification for the level of anionic surfactant, 1.2% or less by weight, set forth in claim 63, is seen in Example 10 (1.2%), Example 9 (0.9%), Example 8 (0.5%), Example 7 (0.35%) as well as p. 14, lines 8 to 12.

Allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

July 6, 2001  
Date

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